

Storylines

Despite a historic \$15 billion budget surplus and skyrocketing inflation, Democrats did not provide meaningful tax relief.

- The House Republican budget framework would have reduced the state sales tax rate by a full percentage point.

The supplemental operating budget spends too much and does nothing to strengthen the rainy-day fund.

- The House Republican budget framework would have funded state priorities and still left a \$2.1 billion surplus.

The transportation package is partisan, raises fees on Washingtonians, and ignores many parts of our state.

- House Republicans offered transportation solutions, including eight bills, that would not raise taxes or fees.

Democrats did nothing on emergency powers reform despite public and editorial board support for it.

- House Republicans introduced bills, including [HB 1772](#), that would restore balance and trust to state government.

Democrats punted on the long-term care insurance program and payroll tax.

- House Republicans offered bills to repeal ([HB 1594](#)) and repeal and replace ([HB 1913](#)) this unpopular program.

Democrats passed a bill in 2021 that limited law enforcement vehicular pursuits. They did not fix this problem in 2022.

- [SB 5919](#) would have restored some of this authority, but it died. [HB 1788](#) was a better solution, but it also died.

Supplemental operating budget | [SB 5693](#)

Funds: K-12 education, higher education, corrections, human services, and other government operations.

Funded by: State taxes (sales tax, property tax and B&O tax), federal funds, tuition, and other sources.

- Largest supplemental operating budget in state history.
- No tax relief for working families. None. Not even a one-time sales tax holiday.
- \$2 billion to the transportation budget, plus \$260 million over four years in additional transportation support.
- \$650 million to the capital budget.
- \$150 million to the new Washington Student Loan Program.
- \$1.6 billion to the “shadow reserve account” created in 2021 (this account now holds \$2.6 billion).
- Leaves a small ending fund balance of \$212 million in 2021-23 and \$348 million in 2023-25 (NGF-O).
- Details: <http://fiscal.wa.gov/OperatingSummaryGraphicSupp.aspx>

Supplemental capital budget | [SB 5651](#)

Funds: K-12 school construction, higher education facilities, mental and behavioral health, Public Works Assistance Account, housing, and community projects.

Funded by: General obligation bonds, dedicated cash accounts, federal funds, and financing contracts.

- Spends \$1.5 billion; \$107.3 million in bonds.
- Makes major investments in housing, infrastructure, mental-health facilities, broadband, and school seismic safety.
- Leaves \$210,000 in remaining bond authority.
- Local projects: <http://fiscal.wa.gov/CapitalProjectListDistrictSupp.aspx>

Supplemental transportation budget | [SB 5689](#)

Funds: Capital projects, operating programs, and debt service.

Funded by: Fuel taxes, license fees, tolls, bonds, and federal funding.

- Provides \$11.6 billion for the 2021-23 transportation budget.
- There is overlap with Move Ahead Washington (see below), but the intent is not to double fund anything.
- This budget indicates an intent to pay for cost over-runs on legislatively approved projects.
- Details: <http://fiscal.wa.gov/TransportationSummaryGraphicSupp.aspx>

Democrats’ partisan Move Head Washington transportation package | [SB 5974 & 5975](#)

- The last three transportation packages have been bipartisan. This one was not. No Republican input.
- A 16-year, \$17 billion transportation package that starts collecting fees in 2022.
- Focuses heavily on the Puget Sound region and ignores other parts of the state.
- Does not prioritize preservation and maintenance, like the House Republican plan.
- Partially funded by an annual \$57 million transfer from the Public Works Assistance Account.
- This plan relies on drivers paying more but in less obvious ways than a state gas tax. It raises fees.
 - \$5.4 billion from auction proceeds from the Climate Commitment Act (CCA).
 - \$1.4 billion due to a \$50 license plate fee for new vehicles and \$20 on motorcycles.
 - \$195 million by raising the enhanced driver’s license price \$7 per year.

House Republican priorities

- Providing tax relief and making life more affordable for all Washingtonians.
- Strengthening communities by making public safety a priority and supporting effective community policing.
- Holding state government accountable, improving outcomes, and enacting emergency powers reform.
- Parents matter. We want to empower them by providing transparency and the necessary financial and educational flexibility to help their children succeed in school and in life.

House Republicans offered **real solutions** the last two years

- Operating budget frameworks | **2022** and **2021**
- **Safe Washington Plan** | public safety
- **Transportation package** (eight bills), including **REAL Act (HB 1603)**
- **Emergency powers reform** (several bills, including **HB 1772** in 2022).
- **Outdoor Recreation and Climate Adaptation (ORCA) plan** | environment
- **REAL Recovery for Washington Act** (2021)

Missed opportunities

- Meaningful tax relief – including sales tax, property tax, or expansion of the Working Families Tax Credit.
- Public safety bills to address rising crime.
- Emergency powers reform.
- Bipartisan collaboration on the operating budget and transportation package.

Bipartisan successes

- Supplemental capital budget | **SB 5651**
- Expands authority for a police officer to use physical force, subject to the requirement to exercise reasonable care, in additional specific circumstances (fix to last year's police-reform legislation) | **HB 1735**
- Revises definition of military equipment to no longer include firearms or ammunition of .50 caliber or greater other than rifles of .50 caliber or greater and modifies definition of rifle (another fix) | **HB 1719**
- Defines physical force and modifies the standard for the use of physical force by police officers (another fix) | **HB 2037**
- Establishes programs and measures to prevent suicide among veterans and military members | **HB 1181**
- Ensures Washington State Patrol are paid comparable wages to top law enforcement agencies in the state | **HB 1785**

Good House Republican bills that did not pass

- Emergency powers reform | **HB 1772**
- Allow law enforcement to pursue suspects | **HB 1788**
- Increase funding for law enforcement recruitment | **HB 1787**
- Change the definition of theft to include concealment | **HB 1656**
- Repeal (**HB 1594**) and repeal and replace (**HB 1912**) the long-term care trust act and payroll tax
- Reduce state property tax levies | **HB 1898**
- Expand the Working Families Tax Credit | **HB 2015**
- **REAL Transportation Act** – Reprioritizing Existing Appropriations for Longevity Act | **HB 1603**
- Promote school choice through scholarships | **HB 1633**
- Require school board meetings to be recorded and made available to the public upon request | **HB 1973**
- Require teachers to make materials used in the classroom available to parents | **HB 2056**

Bad Democratic bills that passed (see separate gun rights section)

- Requires development of requirements for building “clean” buildings | **SB 5722**
- Requires consideration of all-electric in public facility design and disfavors natural gas | **HB 1280**
- Requires a Public Investment Impact disclosure on each voter's ballot for every ballot measure that has a fiscal impact on state revenue | **HB 1876**
- Modifies effective dates of actions under the Growth Management Act | **SB 5042**
- Establishes a prescription drug affordability board | **SB 5532**
- Expands the taxing authority for newly created enhanced service zones within Sound Transit | **SB 5528**

Bad Democratic bills that were stopped

- Adds a climate change layer to GMA | [HB 1099](#) (killed in the last hour of the legislative session)
- Repeal prohibition on L&I adopting ergonomic rules unless required by OSHA | [HB 1837](#)
- Eliminate odd-year elections for county, city, special purpose districts, and all statewide ballot measures | [HB 1727](#)
- Eliminate drive-by shootings as a cause for elevating a murder charge to aggravated murder | [HB 1692](#)
- Create riparian management zones effectively killing much of the state's farmland | [HB 1838](#)

Good House Republican bills that passed

- Creates loan program for historically underserved communities | [HB 1015](#)
- Requires HCA to develop a parent portal to connect families with behavioral health services for minors and requires the HCA to have a point of contact to answer questions about current policy | [HB 1800](#)
- Increases educational and training opportunities for careers in retail | [HB 2019](#)
- Requires state regulators to meet with stakeholders to address risks of rolling blackouts due to inadequate power supply | [HB 1623](#)
- Restores expired tax exemption for nonprofits to host farmers markets without losing tax exemption | [HB 1967](#)
- Adopts the Psychology Interjurisdictional Compact allowing more qualified psychologists to practice | [HB 1286](#)
- Revises the process for individuals with criminal convictions to request a determination from an agency that their criminal history is a disqualifying factor for a professional license | [HB 1874](#)
- Restores expired B&O/PUT exemption for custom farming and hauling farm equipment | [HB 1641](#)
- Requires WSDOT to reconfigure its maintenance operations to assure that state-owned and operated safety rest areas are open for use except for seasonal closures or cleaning, maintenance, and repairs | [HB 1655](#)
- Protects privacy of addresses related to vehicle registration certificates | [HB 1984](#)

Emergency powers reform

- We must restore balance and trust in state government. House Republicans offered reform legislation.
- Our state emergency powers allow the governor to waive or suspend laws and prohibit certain activities.
 - Waivers or suspensions of laws are limited to 30 days and require approval from the Legislature to extend.
 - Prohibitions can last longer if a state of emergency is in effect and do not require legislative approval to remain in place.

Environment

- Outdoor Recreation and Climate Adaptation (ORCA) Plan:
 - Forest health, Puget Sound restoration, drought resiliency and flood mitigation.
- Republicans have supported several environmental bills in the past because they have been balanced:
 - Promoting healthy forest initiatives, providing incentives for solar energy, cleaning up toxic sites, removing legacy nets, dealing with derelict vessels, clearing fish passage, and ensuring oil-train safety.

Gun rights | Second Amendment rights

- Bans firearms magazines that hold more than 10 rounds | [SB 5078](#)
 - Eliminates 'standard capacity' magazines for the most popular pistols and rifles.
 - Will not stop violent crimes or drive-by-shootings. Criminals will not obey this law.
 - This only impacts law-abiding citizens and limits their ability to defend themselves against crime.
- Bans hobbyists and gun enthusiasts, many of whom are current or former military members, from assembling and building their own firearms from certain parts | [HB 1705](#)
 - A misguided attempt to go after so-called 'ghost guns' that can't be traced because they don't have serial numbers on certain pieces.
 - Ignores the fact the vast majority of these weapons found at crime scenes are firearms that have had their serial numbers filed or acid etched off.
 - Assembling firearms from various parts is a popular family hobby.
- Bans the open carry of firearms in buildings where local governments or school boards/directors hold meetings or hearings, and in election-related facilities | [HB 1630](#)
 - Infringes upon Second Amendment and the right of self-defense.
 - Crimes is rampant in many areas. We should not take away the rights of our citizens to defend themselves.

Homelessness

- We must address the root causes: Drug addiction, mental health, economic despair, and lack of affordable housing.
- **Seattle is Dying** and the **follow up** highlighted that enforcement and intervention are the keys to addressing this crisis.
- We cannot continue with the same programs and services if they continue to produce the same failed results.

Housing

- Every year, Democrats talk about affordable housing. And every year, they pass bills to make housing more expensive.
- Let's get out of the way of the private sector. Our problems will not be solved by the public sector alone.
- We want people to stay in their homes. But landlord/tenant laws must have balance and be fair to both parties.

Law enforcement

- We should not be defunding or disarming the police. The policing bills passed in 2021 made communities less safe.
- We can't take away tools police officers rely on to deescalate situations and avoid the necessity to use deadly force.
- Our police officers are already held to a very high standard. We cannot make that standard an impossible one.
- We need to bridge the gap of the fragile relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

Long-term care insurance program and payroll tax

- The long-term care insurance program and payroll tax are unpopular, insolvent, and regressive.
 - Unpopular: Nearly 63% of voters said the bill should be repealed through **Advisory Vote No. 20** in 2019.
 - Insolvent: The numbers don't work. This means premiums will likely have to be increased in the future. You can read what our State Actuary had to say [here](#).
 - Regressive: Someone could pay into the system for several years and either not need or not be able to access the modest **benefit**.

Regressive energy policies from 2021 will cause even more pain at the pump in the future

Low-carbon fuel standard mandate (2021) | **HB 1091**

- Authorizes Department of Ecology to create a clean fuels program by rule to reduce the carbon intensity of transportation fuels.
- This is regressive. It will create additional hardship on families by increasing the price of gas, diesel, and goods.

Cap-and-tax scheme (2021) | **SB 5126**

- Establishes a cap-and-invest program for greenhouse gas emissions to be implemented by Department of Ecology.
- This is also regressive. It will raise the price of gas, food, goods, and heating on struggling Washingtonians.
- This will hurt rural communities, agriculture, and small businesses, and makes Washington less competitive.
- This is an ineffective way to reduce CO2 emissions and globally irrelevant.

Learn more | houserepublicans.wa.gov

[The Ledger](#) | A legislative news aggregator

[House floor debate highlights](#) | 2019-22

[House Republican budget plan would provide tax relief, including sales tax cut](#)

[Public safety: The Republican Safe Washington Plan](#)

[Transportation solutions: Reprioritizing Existing Appropriations for Longevity \(REAL\) Act](#)

[ORCA](#) | Outdoor Recreation and Climate Adaptation

[Repealing the unpopular long-term care insurance program and regressive payroll tax](#)

[Democrats' new tax increases](#) | 2019-21

[Editorial boards criticize Democrats' policies, processes](#)

[Salmon and hydroelectric power can co-exist](#)

[Holding state government accountable](#)

[Republican letters to Gov. Jay Inslee](#)

[House Republican bills signed into law](#)

Facts

- House: 57 Democrats, 41 Republicans | Senate: 28 Democrats, 20 Republicans (+ Sen. Tim Sheldon).
- 2021-23 budget cycle: July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2023.